

UNCLAS 6F

*** BEGIN MESSAGE 128 ***

SERIAL=PA1401034190 UDN=X(13406)

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WARNING: MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

SERIAL: PA1401034190

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: TAKE 1 OF 2 -- REPORT ON CRISTIANI 'PLAN' IN JESUITS CASE

REF: PA1301231490 AND ADD SAN SALVADOR DOMESTIC SPANISH 132100
-- CRISTIANI NAMES SUSPECTS IN JESUIT CASE

SOURCE: (CLANDESTINE) RADIO VENCEREMOS IN SPANISH TO EL SALVADOR
0027 GMT 14 JAN 90

TEXT:

((TEXT)) ATTENTION, LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS, WE WILL NOW PRESENT A REPORT REVEALING CRISTIANI'S PLAN TO TRY TO COVER UP THE ASSASSINATION OF THE JESUIT PRIESTS.

AT NOON ON 11 JANUARY, WE CARRIED A REPORT ON THIS PLAN, AND 3 HOURS BEFORE ((WORDS INDISTINCT)) APPEARED ON A NATIONAL RADIO AND TELEVISION NETWORK. WE WILL NOW PRESENT A REPORT, WHICH -- WE REPEAT -- REVEALS CRISTIANI'S PLAN TO LET GO UNPUNISHED THE ASSASSINATION OF THE JESUIT PRIESTS. THIS IS A REPORT WE PRESENTED 3 HOURS BEFORE CRISTIANI APPEARED ON A RADIO AND TELEVISION NETWORK.

THE 72-HOUR DEADLINE SET BY ALFREDO CRISTIANI TO REVEAL THE NAMES OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ASSASSINATED THE JESUIT PRIESTS AND THEIR TWO MAIDS HAS PASSED, AND EXTENSIVE INFORMATION HAS BEEN CIRCULATING AMONG DIPLOMATIC, POLITICAL, AND JOURNALISTIC CIRCLES ON THE VERSION THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO PRESENT. CRISTIANI WILL NOT REVEAL THE TRUTH. ALONG WITH LA TANDONA ((REFERENCE TO THE 1966 GRADUATING CLASS OF THE CAPTAIN GENERAL GERARDO BARRIOS MILITARY ACADEMY -- FBIS)), HE HAS DRAFTED A VERSION TO TRY TO CLEAR THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF COMMAND OF ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND TO PLACE THE BLAME FOR THIS AT THE LEVEL OF EXECUTIVE COMMAND.

CRISTIANI WILL TRY TO PRESENT THE ASSASSINATION OF THE PRIESTS AS BEING THE RESULT OF A CIRCUMSTANCIAL OPERATIONAL ERROR. ACCORDING TO THE VERSION DRAFTED BY THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF AND BY CRISTIANI, ON THE NIGHT OF 16 NOVEMBER, ATACATL BATTALION TROOPS HAD BEEN SENT TO THE UCA ((CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY -- FBIS)) TO CONDUCT A ROUTINE SEARCH. DURING THE OPERATION, A SOLDIER INCIDENTALLY BECAME INVOLVED IN A HEATED ARGUMENT WITH SALVADORAN PRIEST JOAQUIN LOPEZ LOPEZ, DURING WHICH HE SHOT THE PRIEST, KILLING HIM INSTANTLY.

ACCORDING TO THE STORY THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF AND CRISTIANI ARE PREPARING, THIS UNFORESEABLE ACTION WOULD HAVE COMPLICATED THE ROUTINE SEARCH. THEREFORE, THE LEADER OF THE PATROL DECIDED TO ELIMINATE ALL THE PRIESTS AND THEIR TWO MAIDS SO AS NOT TO LEAVE WITNESSES.

THIS IS WHAT PRESIDENT CRISTIANI AND THE ARMY'S GENERAL STAFF ARE PREPARING AS THEIR DEFENSE. TO ((WORDS INDISTINCT)) THIS VERSION, CRISTIANI ((WORDS INDISTINCT)) GUESSED THE DECLARATIONS MADE BY THE WITNESS WHO TESTIFIED ABOUT THE LAST WORDS OF THE LATE FATHER MARTIN BARO AT THE TIME OF THE CRIME. BARO WAS HEARD SHOUTING: THIS IS UNJUST

ACCORDING TO THE VERSION CRISTIANI IS PREPARING, ATACATL BATTALION SOLDIERS REPORTED THE INCIDENT TO GENERAL GUILLERMO

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Approved for Release

Date

DEC 1993

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BENAVIDES, DIRECTOR OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY; AND TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL CAMILO HERNANDEZ OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY, WHO IN TURN NOTIFIED OTHER OFFICERS, INCLUDING COLONEL ARMANDO AVILES, CHIEF OF THE G-5 OF THE GENERAL STAFF. FOR REASONS OF PERSONAL SELF-INTEREST, COL ARMANDO AVILES PASSED THIS INFORMATION CONFIDENTIALLY TO U.S. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM WALKER.

THE FACTS, THEIR IMPLICATIONS, AND THE DRAFTING OF THIS VERSION OF THE STORY GENERATED HEATED ARGUMENTS BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL STAFF, THE U.S. EMBASSY, AND CRISTIANI. ULTIMATELY, THE MEDIA LEARNED ABOUT THESE ARGUMENTS, AND IN VIEW OF THE IMMINENT PUBLICATION OF THIS SITUATION IN THE MEDIA, ALFREDO CRISTIANI WAS FORCED TO ADMIT IN A HURRY AND TO OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE MILITARY IN THE ASSASSINATION OF THE JESUITS.

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